

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A velocity-changing apparatus for changing a velocity of a continuous web comprising:

a drum for transporting the continuous web at a transport velocity which is generally equal to a circumferential velocity of the drum while changing the circumferential velocity periodically at least once per one rotation of the drum, the continuous web being in contact with and wound around at least a portion of the surface of the transporting drum;

a movable member disposed upstream of the drum for feeding the continuous web to the drum, the movable member moving according to the change of the circumferential velocity of the drum so that a feed velocity at which the continuous web is fed to the drum is generally equal to the transport velocity of the continuous web being transported by the drum; ~~and~~

a cutter for cutting, on the drum, the continuous web being transported at the transport velocity which is generally equal to the circumferential velocity of the drum; and

a processing device for processing the continuous web on the drum, wherein the processing device is a welder for welding the continuous web.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A velocity-changing apparatus according to claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the processing device processes the continuous web when the transport velocity at which the drum transports the continuous web is lower than an average circumferential velocity of the drum.

5. (Currently Amended) A velocity changing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the cutter ~~cut~~ cuts the continuous web when the transport velocity at which the

drum transports the continuous web is lower than the average circumferential velocity of the drum.

6. (Currently Amended) A velocity changing apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a receiving device for receiving a cut-off web cut off by the cutter and then transporting the cut-off web, wherein

a velocity at which the received cut-off web is transported by the receiving device when the receiving device receives the cut-off web is ~~larger~~ greater than the transport velocity of the continuous web when the continuous web is cut,

whereby a tip end of the continuous web get gets spaced apart from a rear end of the cut-off web.

7. (New) A velocity-changing apparatus for changing a velocity of a continuous web comprising:

a drum for transporting the continuous web at a transport velocity which is generally equal to a circumferential velocity of the drum while changing the circumferential velocity periodically at least once per one rotation of the drum;

a movable member disposed upstream of the drum for feeding the continuous web to the drum, the movable member moving according to the change of the circumferential velocity of the drum so that a feed velocity at which the continuous web is fed to the drum is generally equal to the transport velocity of the continuous web being transported by the drum, wherein the movable member comprises a movable roller fixed to an arm, and the distance between the movable member and the drum is increased or decreased by swinging the arm to which the movable roller is fixed; and

a cutter for cutting, on the drum, the continuous web being transported at the transport velocity which is generally equal to the circumferential velocity of the drum.

8. (New) The velocity-changing apparatus of claim 7 further comprising a receiving device for receiving a cut-off web cut off by the cutter and then transporting the cut-off web, wherein

a velocity at which the received cut-off web is transported by the receiving device when the receiving device receives the cut-off web is larger than the transport velocity of the continuous web when the continuous web is cut,

whereby a tip end of the continuous web get spaced apart from a rear end of the cut-off web.

9. (New) A velocity changing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the movable member comprises a movable roller fixed to an arm, and the distance between the movable member and the drum is increased or decreased by swinging the arm to which the movable roller is fixed.